

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has objected to claims 26 and 27 and rejected claims 1-30.

Claims 26 and 27 are objected to for being literally duplicative. Since claims 24-30 follow claims 16-22, it is clear that claim 26 was intended to recite the elements as set forth in claim 18. Accordingly, claim 26 has been amended to recite the elements as set forth in claim 18. Also, claim 30 follows claim 22, each of which mistakenly recites a "method" in respective preambles. Accordingly, claims 30 and 22 have been amended to correct this informality.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(3) as being anticipated by United States Publication No. US 2002/0031196 A1 ("Muller"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Muller relates to synchronization between a single master unit 104 and a plurality of slave units 106, 108, 110. See Muller at FIG. 4. The embodiments illustrated in FIGS. 1-3 of Muller relate to synchronization between a single master unit 2 and a slave unit 6. A plurality of master units is not described in Muller. This fact is emphasized by Muller at paragraph [0040] which states that "[t]here is only one master in a network". In fact, FIG. 4 relates to a piconet. A piconet, according to the Bluetooth standard, can only have one master. Muller relates to synchronization between a single master and a plurality of slaves in a piconet.

To anticipate claim 1, Muller must describe each and every element as set forth in claim 1. However, Muller does not describe each and every element as set forth in claim 1. For example, claim 1, recites "distributing said offset to at least one master device other than said first master device". Of course, since Muller only describes synchronization between a single master device and the slave devices in its piconet, Muller cannot describe distributing an offset to *another* master device. The Office Action recites Muller at paragraphs [0052-0056] in support of the anticipation rejection. However, the only sharing of synchronization information described in paragraphs [0052-0056] occurs between a single master and a plurality of slave units. Muller does not discuss anywhere the distributing an offset, for example, from one master to another master. For at least the above-stated reasons, the anticipation rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims (i.e., claims 2-9) has been respectfully traversed. It is respectfully requested that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn with respect to claims 1-9.


Independent claim 10 recites "distributing said offset to a second master device selected from the plurality of master devices". Independent claim 15 recites "wherein said offset is distributed to at least one of said master devices". Independent claim 23 recites "wherein said offset is available to other of said master devices via said communication pathway". Since Muller does not describe multiple master devices or interactions between multiple master devices, an anticipation rejection based on Muller cannot be maintained with respect to claims 10, 15 and 23. Also, where applicable, similar arguments made with respect to claim 1 are also made with respect to claims 10, 15 and 23. For at least the above-stated reasons, the anticipation rejection of claims 10, 15, 23 and their dependent claims (i.e., claims 11-14, 16-22 and 24-30, respectively) has been respectfully traversed. It is respectfully requested that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn with respect to claims 10-30.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Please charge any required fees not paid herewith or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Account No. 13-0017.

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Respectfully submitted,


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